

Remarks

Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 18-31 and 34 are pending in the application, with claims 18, 32, 33 and 34 being the independent claims. Claims 1-17 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 23, 24 and 30 have been amended to correct the dependency. New claim 34 is sought to be added. Support for new claim 34 is found in the description, *inter alia*, at page 6 line 10 through page 9, line 23.

These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicant believes the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.



Jeffrey S. Lundgren
Agent for Applicants
Registration No. 51,987

Date: February 6, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934
(202) 371-2600